

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Good quality foodgrains, free from insect infestation and strictly conforming to PFA standards are supplied by FCI under PDS and the quality is same during the current year also.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No specific complaint has been received from any State and particularly from Kerala in this regard.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The following action plan has been formulated by the Government to check the quality of foodgrains distributed under PDS:
- (i) The representatives of the State Governments are allowed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting stocks from the godowns for distribution under TPDS.
 - (ii) Type, sealed samples of foodgrains from the issuing lots are displayed at fair price shops for the benefit of consumers.
 - (iii) Surprise checks by the Government agencies are carried out at fair price shops to check the quality of foodgrains.

[Translation]

Selling of Stolen Passports

1583. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have busted a gang engaged in the selling of the stolen passports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of persons arrested and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects as per the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Information relating to busting of gangs, crime-wise, is not maintained at the Central level.

Availability of Pulses

1584. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether per capita availability of pulses has declined during 1997-98, and current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the quantity of pulses imported under the open general licence during the said period;
- (d) the reasons for import of pulses;
- (e) whether the import of pulses has any impact on the market prices of pulses;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The per capita net availability of pulses has declined during the year 1998. The per capita net availability of pulses during 1996, 1997 and 1998 is given below:

Year	Per capita net availability of pulses (Kg. per year)
1996 (Prov.)	12.0
1997 (Prov.)	14.0
1998 (Prov.)	12.1

The decline in per capita availability of pulses during the year 1998 may be attributed to fall in the production of pulses from 14.46 million tonnes in 1996-97 to 13.35 million tonnes in 1997-98.

(c) The quantity of pulses imported during 1996-97 to 1998-99 (upto September, 1998) is as under:—

1996-97	5.32 lakh tonnes
1997-98	6.59 lakh tonnes
1998-99 (Upto September, 1998)	1.46 lakh tonnes